

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

60 Minutes had originally planned to run a story about how the U.S. government was snookered by forged documents purporting to show Iraqi efforts to purchase uranium from Niger. CBS News decided that it would be "inappropriate" to air such segment so close to the presidential election, therefore, postponing the airing until after the November 2nd election.

It is particularly unacceptable when the shelving of a story benefits one candidate and to allow another documentary to air which favors that same candidate.

If you want to restore trust to the American public, begin by applying journalistic standards, not political calculations, to the decision on when to air reports on either candidate. Allowing corporate control media to persuade a presidential election is just a step closer toward dictatorship.

If this documentary is not politically motivated, Sinclair executives will not have a problem airing the documentary after the November 2nd election.

Thank you.